

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) A computer-implemented method comprising:
reading digital audio data from a source medium, the digital audio data divided into a plurality of tracks, each representing a discrete chunk of digital audio data and having sound levels varying as a function of a variable;
analyzing the digital audio data to determine the levels of sound as a function of the variable and determining one or more precise values of the variable at which the level of sound crosses a specified threshold; and
dividing the digital audio data into one or more segments, each segment containing one or more tracks and each segment excluding the digital audio data having levels of sound below the specified threshold, and wherein dividing includes:
if the level of sound at a track edge between a first track and a second track is not below the specified threshold, then including the first and second tracks in the same segment; and
if the level of sound at a track edge between a third track and a fourth track is below the specified threshold, then including the third and fourth tracks in separate segments.
2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the source medium contains Table of Contents ("TOC") data identifying the values of the variable at which each track begins and ends ~~within each file and~~ within each segment, said method further comprising reading and storing the TOC data.

3. (canceled).
4. (previously presented) The method of claim 2 further comprising:
encoding at least one of the segments to generate a playback file that may be read by an audio player.
5. (original) The method of claim 4 wherein the encoding includes compressing the digital audio data contained on the segment.
6. (original) The method of claim 4 further comprising:
if a playback file contains two or more tracks then, with reference to the TOC data, dividing the playback file into smaller playback files such that each smaller playback file represents a discrete track, and two or more of the smaller playback files may be played consecutively without a pause or loss in sound quality during the time an audio player is switching between playing contiguous tracks.
7. (original) The method of claim 4 further comprising:
if a first segment is contiguous to a second segment, determining an amount of time equal to the digital audio data that was excluded, during said dividing, from between the first and second segments; and
storing the amount of time and its position relative to the one or more segments; and

inserting silence for a time equal in length to the said amount time after an audio player's playback of the one or more tracks contained in the first segment and prior to an audio player's playback of the one or more tracks contained in the second segment.

8. (original) The method of claim 5 wherein the compressing comprises MP3 compression.

9. (original) The method of claim 5 wherein the compressing comprises AC-3 compression.

10. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the variable is time.

11. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the variable is a number of data sectors.

12. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the source medium is a compact disc ("CD").

13. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the source medium is a mini-disc.

14. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the source medium is a digital video disk ("DVD").

15. (canceled).
16. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the audio data is PCM data.
17. (canceled).
18. (previously presented) A machine readable medium including program code which, when executed by a machine, causes said machine to:
- read digital audio data from a source medium, the digital audio data divided into a plurality of tracks, each representing a discrete chunk of digital audio data and having sound levels varying a function of a variable;
 - analyze the digital audio data to determine the levels of sound as a function of the variable and determining one or more precise values of the variable at which the level of sound crosses a specified threshold; and
 - divide the digital audio data into one or more segments, each segment containing one or more tracks and each segment excluding the digital audio data having levels of sound below the specified threshold, wherein dividing includes:
 - if the level of sound at a track edge between a first track and a second track is not below the specified threshold, then including the first and second tracks in the same segment; and

if the level of sound at a track edge between a third track and a fourth track is below the specified threshold, then including the third and fourth tracks in separate segments.

19. (previously presented) The machine readable medium of claim 18 wherein the source medium contains Table of Contents (TOC) data identifying the values of the variable at which each track begins and ends within each segment.

20. (canceled).

21. (previously presented) The machine readable medium of claim 19 further causing said machine to:

encode at least one of the segments to generate a playback file that may be read by an audio player.

22. (currently amended) The machine readable medium method of claim 21 wherein the encoding includes compressing the digital audio data contained on the segment.

23. (original) The machine readable medium of claim 21 further causing said machine to:

if a playback file contains two or more tracks then, with reference to the TOC data, divide the playback file into smaller playback files such that each smaller

playback file represents a discrete track, and two or more of the smaller playback files may be played consecutively without a pause or loss in sound quality during the time an audio player is switching between playing contiguous tracks.

24. (original) The machine readable medium of claim 21 further causing said machine to:

determine, wherein a first segment is contiguous to a second segment, an amount of time equal to the digital audio data that was excluded between the first and second segments;

store the amount of time and its position relative to the one or more segments;
and

insert silence for a time equal in length to said amount time after an audio player's playback of the one or more tracks contained in the first segment and prior to an audio player's playback of the one or more tracks contained in the second segment.

25. (previously presented) An apparatus comprising:

a ripper module to read multimedia content from a medium into memory; and
a wave slicer module to divide said multimedia content into one or more segments based on a measured audio level of said multimedia content dropping below a predetermined threshold value at a beginning and an end of each of said segments, wherein said multimedia content is divided such that, if the level of sound at a track edge between a first track and a second track is not below the specified

threshold, the first and second tracks are included in the same segment; and if the level of sound at a track edge between a third track and a fourth track is below the specified threshold, the third and fourth tracks are included in separate segments.

26. (original) The apparatus as in claim 25 further comprising:

one or more encoder modules to encode said segments using a specified encoding algorithm.

27. (original) The apparatus as in claim 26 further comprising:

a splitter module to split said segments into discrete tracks based on index data identifying said tracks.

28. (original) The apparatus as in claim 25 wherein said multimedia content is PCM audio content.

29. (original) The apparatus as in claim 28 wherein said medium is a compact disk.

30. (previously presented) A computer-implemented method comprising:

reading digital audio data from a source medium, the digital audio data divided into a plurality of tracks and having sound levels changing over time;

analyzing the digital audio data to determine the levels of sound as a function of time and determining one or more points in time at which the level of sound is below a specified threshold; and

dividing the digital audio data into one or more segments, each segment containing one or more of said tracks and each segment excluding the digital audio data having levels of sound below the specified threshold, wherein dividing includes:

if the level of sound at a track edge between a first track and a second track is not below the specified threshold, then including the first and second tracks in the same segment; and

if the level of sound at a track edge between a third track and a fourth track is below the specified threshold, then including the third and fourth tracks in separate segments.

31. (previously presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the source medium contains Table of Contents ("TOC") data identifying the time at which each track begins and ends within each file and within each segment, said method further comprising reading and storing the TOC data.

32. (canceled).

33. (previously presented) The method of claim 31 further comprising:
encoding one or more of the segments to generate a playback file that may be read by an audio player.

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